

Some overlooked synonymy and additional species in British Sciomyzidae (Diptera), and a note on *Limnophora exsurda* (Anthomyiidae)

By J. E. COLLIN, F.R.E.S.

In the May number of this Magazine my friend and colleague in the study of the Diptera, Mr L. Parmenter, published a "Check List of the British Species of Sciomyzidae, adapted from Knutson and Lyneborg 1965," thereby referring to a paper published by those Authors in Denmark. Unfortunately these Authors (like so many others) completely overlooked a short paper by Hendel in the *Wien. Ent. Zeit.*, 1910, p. 109, in which he made some very important corrections of his previous paper published in 1902 in the *Abhand. z.-b. Ges. Wien*, (*not as stated in Kertész' 'Katalog' the Verh. of that z.-b. Ges. Wien*). It is true that the Zoological Record gave no details of all Hendel's corrections made in his 1910 paper, *but it did give a reference to Sciomyza virgata Hal.*

When I found that Hendel had sunk the name of *virgata* Hal. as a synonym of *pallidiventris* Fln., I immediately sent him British specimens of both species. In returning them to me he stated that *virgata* was previously unknown to him, though he had come to the conclusion that a specimen sent to him by Austen of the British Museum which he had returned as being his new species *Lichtwardti* must really have been a specimen of *virgata*. Further, that to his surprise, our British *pallidiventris* was really Zetterstedt's species and not, as he had believed, the species Schiner had incorrectly recognized as *rufiventris* Mg., namely his new species *sordida* (or new name for *rufiventris* Schin. *nec* Mg.). As a consequence the name *sordida* Hend., has no right to remain in the British List.

In that 1910 paper Hendel satisfactorily proved that *S. virgata* was not the same as his new species *Lichtwardti*, though comparing the characters of the latter more with the characters given by Rondani for his species *albicarpa* than with the characters of *virgata*, because he considered those two species (I believe incorrectly) to be the same. The true *albicarpa* Rnd. appears to have been described by Becker from the Canary Islands as *S. argyrotarsis*.

Hendel did not consider *pallidicarpa* Rnd. to be recognizable, and consequently did not consider that this name had been used correctly in the British List. Fortunately he had given some very useful information in his 1902 paper on the structure of the male genitalia in the types of both *scutellaris*, and his new species *Bezzii* (described from Italian specimens), which made it quite certain that the species standing in the Verrall Collection correctly under the name *pallidicarpa* were in fact specimens of Hendel's later described *S. Bezzii*. In that species there can be some slight variation in the amount of dusting obscuring the ground colour of thorax, but this is never so dark, or dense, or in such contrast to the obviously yellowish-red humeri and scutellum, as in the two females in the Verrall Collection under the name of *scutellaris* v. Ros. It is obvious that *pallidicarpa*, *scutellaris*, and *sordida* are closely related species but each with different male genitalia. It should be noted that Rondani in 1877 gave additional characters for the identification of *albicarpa* and *pallidi-*

carpa, as well as comparing them with *scutellaris*, of which he had received a co-type from von Roser.

There has been some query as to the identity of Meigen's species *rufiventris* described from a pair taken in Austria by Megerle von Muhlfield, which should be found in the Vienna Museum, and (according to Brauer) must bear a small white label with 'M' printed upon it. Schiner in his Fauna Austriaca evidently had not seen these specimens when he believed that he had recognized Meigen's species and thought they might be Fallén's *pallidiventris*. It appears probable that the original type specimens have been lost, and that the specimen of *ventralis* found by Becker in the Winthem Collection (where again according to Brauer) the type of *rufiventris* should not be found, was a later addition made by Winthem. Kertész' "Katalog" was the cause of further confusion by quoting *Sciomyza ventralis* Mg. as a synonym of *pallidiventris* when it should have appeared under *ventralis* Fln., because Meigen only published a translation of Fallén's description; while *S. vittata* Hal. (1833) was the type of the genus *Antichaeta*.

The following alterations to Mr Parmenter's List of British Sciomyzidae are necessary to include all the overlooked, and new synonymy, and the additional species now known to occur in this Country:—

The synonym CETENULUS of the genus COLOBAEA should read CTENULUS, and the species *punctatus* Lndbk. (1923) added.

The name *virgata* Hal. (1839) removed from the synonymy of *Pherbellia pallidiventris*, and replace that of *lichtwardti* Hend. (1902), as indicated above.

The name of *pallidicarpa* Rnd. (1868) added in PHERBELLIA, with *Bezzii* Hend. as a synonym, as indicated above.

The name *ruficeps* Zett. (1846) added in the same genus, with *mixta* Elb. as a synonym. This new synonymy should be noted.

The name *dryomyzina* Zett. (1846) added in the genus SCIOMYZA as an additional species.

The name *pectorosa* Hend. (1902) added in the genus PTEROMICRA.

The name *vittata* Hal. (1833) added as a synonym of *Antichaeta analis* Mg., with *brevipennis* Zett. added as a species of ANTICHAETA, and not a species of HEMITELOPTERYX.

The name ILIONE Hal. (1839) to replace that of KNUTSONIA Verb. (1964).

The name *vittigera* Schin. (1864) included as an additional species of PSACADINA.

Notes on some of the changes

Colobaea punctata Lndbk. may easily be mistaken for a variety of *pectoralis*, but its early stages are different, its pleural markings more punctate, and the costal segment between third and fourth veins is usually distinctly longer than that between the fourth and fifth. I have taken specimens in Wales, Kent, Cambs., Suffolk, Norfolk, and Essex.

Pherbellia ruficeps Zett. has the same male genitalia as *P. mixta* Elb., and is the earlier name. It can be distinguished from *dorsata* by its shorter arisal pubescence, as plainly indicated by Zetterstedt, and may be found in company with that species. I possess specimens taken in Cambs., Hereford, Kent, and Sussex.

Sciomyza dryomyzina Zett. was added to the British List when I exhibited specimens at a Meeting of the Entomological Society on 2nd February 1927, taken in Suffolk (Henny). It has since been taken in Oxon. and Yorks. At the same time I exhibited British specimens of *Actenoptera hilarella* Zett., then placed in Helomyzidae.

Pteromicra pectorosa Hend. is allied to *nigrimana* Mg., but the pleurae are more yellow (especially sterno- and hypo-pleurae), wings not so clear, and male hypopygium different and often yellowish. I have taken it freely at Barton Mills (Suffolk) in May.

Hemitelepteryx brevipennis Zett. has been transferred quite recently by Dr Knutson (*Proc. Amer. Ent. Soc.*, 1966, p. 72), for quite good reasons, to the genus ANTICHAETA Hal., of which *vittata* Hal. (1833) = *analysis* Mg. (1830) was the original type.

Psacadina vittigera Schin. which is so easily distinguished from *punctata* Schin. by its mid-frontal stripe being faintly dusted whitish in the male, and much more distinctly so in the female, has long been known to me from specimens taken in Cambs. (Chippenham Fen, where it is not uncommon from March till September, and Wicken Fen), Suffolk (Barton Mills), Norfolk (near King's Lynn), and Berks (Cothill) but apparently has escaped being recorded.

A new species of *Limnia* (*L. paludicola* Elburg (1965) has been described based upon very small differences in its male genitalia from the common *L. unguicornis* Scop. I have dissected the genitalia of seven specimens of *unguicornis*, two of them taken in Chippenham Fen, where one might expect a species called *paludicola* to be found, and each one of the seven has a different arrangement of the small differences considered by Elburg to be of specific importance. This makes it impossible to accept *L. paludicola* as a distinct species, and the new synonymy should be noted.

Ilione Hal. (1839) an earlier name for *Knutsonia* Verb. (1964).

The 'revision' of the 1905 Rules required in the 1960 Rules of Zoological Nomenclature mainly refers to generic names published before 1905 when the first International Rules were adopted. *These 1905 Rules were to be retrospective in application, and remain unaltered.* The sole reason for their revision, and for pretending that Opinion 1 was legal when it was quite definitely an illegal alteration of a 1905 Rule, was to retain in use certain generic names invalidly published under the 1905 Rules, before 1905. It was carefully hidden in the 1960 Rules that these two actions represented definite repudiations of the intentions of members of the previous Commission who had drafted the 1905 Rules, but nevertheless this was the case. Of course Opinion 1 cannot be accepted as legal until it was made so in 1930, but apparently the revision of the 1905 Rule for the publication of a valid generic name must be accepted. Therefore under Article 12, and Article 16 (a), (v), of the 1960 Rules, the generic name of *Ilione* Hal. (1839) published in Curtis' 'Guide' with *Tetanocera lineata* Fln., as its sole included species, became a valid generic name, which antedates the generic name of *Knutsonia* Verb. (1962), and must replace it. This necessary new synonymy should be noted.

After publishing his List of British Sciomyzidae, Mr Parmenter added a note on 'Amendments to the List of British Diptera' in which he quite correctly called attention to the necessary change in the name of our British *Limnophora exsurda* by Dr Lyneborg to that of *L. olympiae* (though that was a very unfortunate selection of a name). He then, in a very indirect way, called attention to the fact that in 1921 the name

of *Limnophora exsurda* Pand. was added by me to the British List, by accepting as correct the identification of the species by Schnabl in 1911, and Stein in 1916. He further pointed out that Dr Lyneborg agreed that Hennig in Lindner's 'Die Fliegen' had described (and figured the male genitalia) of the species Schnabl, Stein, and Collin had incorrectly recognized as *exsurda*, under the incorrect name of *setinerva* S. & D., making it necessary for him to give a new name to Hennig's species. Apparently Hennig made this mistake because Villeneuve had accepted this synonymy as correct, in spite of the fact that Schnabl's description and genital figures were obviously those of a different species.

At that time Hennig and Lyneborg considered Pandellé's *exsurda* an unrecognizable species, but Lyneborg (apparently unknowingly) had made its identity practically certain by publishing figures of the male genitalia of *setinerva*, and of the actual type specimens of *variabilis*, *uniseta*, and *scrupulosa*, and those of *variabilis* were exactly the same as those figured by Schnabl for his *exsurda* var *lativittata*, a name which has never been validated by acceptance as the name for a species. Schnabl's *exsurda* was, of course, *olympiae*, which though having a mesolobe very like that of *C. riparia* Fln. (as in the case of Pandellé's *exsurda* and *variabilis*) had setulae on the basal part of the cubital vein, absent in the latter two species, neither of which has been found in Britain, both being found on high mountains in Central Europe, and *variabilis* according to Stein attracted to the flowers of Umbelliferae, exactly in both ways as recorded by Pandellé for *exsurda*. Surely it is impossible for these to be two different species, and *exsurda* is the older name. This new synonymy should be noted.

Pandellé lived in Tarbes, a very ancient city built in a fertile plain on the south side of part of the Pyrenees, and it was in the mountains there that most of his collecting was done, and where he found his species *exsurda* freely from June until October, making it incredible that there should be no specimens in his Collection. He died in 1906, and his Collection ultimately reached Paris, where it became easily available to anyone interested. The inability to find specimens of *exsurda* in that Collection may have been due to a shaking loose of them, or their name label, in the journey from Tarbes, and their subsequent misplacement. Otherwise someone must have been responsible for misplacing them. What now appears necessary is that someone should collect specimens in the same locality, and one of them be selected as a 'neotype'.

Raylands, Newmarket, Suffolk. 6.viii.66.

Asilidae (Dipt.) of Northern England

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It is a curious fact that no Asilid could be mistaken for a member of any other Dipterous family, so distinct is the Asilid stamp on all its members not only in Britain but throughout the world. They are chiefly recognised by their carnivorous habits, their strong probosces and their characteristic wing venations. Their predatory nature has earned for them the common name of Assassin or Robber flies.

Included in this interesting group of insects are some of the largest and most striking of all known Diptera. In Britain our two largest species: *Asilus crabroniformis* L. and *Laphria flava* (L.) are upwards of